

Applicant : Shimon Sakaguchi
Serial No. : 09/284,114
Filed : April 7, 1999
Page : 2

Attorney's Docket No. 07898-038001 / PH-425PCT-
US

Please delete the present title in its entirety and substitute a new title to read as follows:

--INBRED MOUSE STRAIN SELECTED FOR AUTOIMMUNE ARTHRITIS--

On page 1, line 1, delete "This application is a 371 of PCT/JP97/03591 and claims priority to Japanese patent application no. 267126/1996, filed October 8, 1996." (inserted in the amendment dated May 12, 2000), and insert therefor:

--RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a national phase application under 37 CFR §371 of international application no. PCT/JP97/03591, which claims priority to Japanese patent application no. 267126/1996, filed October 8, 1996. Each of the aforementioned applications are explicitly incorporated herein by reference in their entirety and for all purposes.--

In The Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Twice amended) An inbred [A BALB/c] mouse strain, derived from BALB/c mice, selected for the trait of developing [that develops natural onset of] autoimmune arthritis, wherein the inbred mouse strain is denoted SKG.

2. (Amended) The inbred [BALB/c] mouse strain of claim 1, wherein the autoimmune arthritis comprises rheumatoid arthritis.

3. (Amended) The inbred [BALB/c] mouse strain of claim 1, wherein the autoimmune arthritis is characterized by arthritis developing in the joints of the forelegs and hind legs and progressing to joint stiffening.

4. (Amended) The inbred [BALB/c] mouse strain of claim 1, wherein the mouse produces an autoantibody [against] reactive with type II collagen.

5. (Amended) The inbred [BALB/c] mouse strain of claim 1, wherein onset of autoimmune arthritis begins at about 3 to 4 months after birth of the mouse.

6. (Amended) A method of producing an SKG [BALB/c] mouse derived from a BALB/c mouse, [that develops natural onset of] wherein the SKG mouse comprises the trait of developing an autoimmune arthritis, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) breeding [an] a selected SKG [BALB/c] mouse with a [second] BALB/c mouse to produce offspring;

(b) screening the offspring for [natural onset] the trait of autoimmune arthritis;

B²
and

(c) identifying an offspring that develops [natural onset of] autoimmune arthritis, thereby producing the SKG [BALB/c] mouse [that develops natural onset of] comprising the trait of developing an autoimmune arthritis.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the [second] BALB/c mouse is an SKG [BALB/c] mouse.

8. (Amended) A method of producing a mouse that develops [natural onset of] autoimmune arthritis comprising:

(a) breeding an SKG [BALB/c] mouse with a second mouse to produce offspring;

(b) screening the offspring for [natural] onset of autoimmune arthritis; and

(c) identifying an offspring that develops [natural onset of] autoimmune arthritis, thereby producing a mouse that develops [natural onset of] autoimmune arthritis.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Pending claims

Claims 1 to 11 are pending.